



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

STATE LODGE OF MICHIGAN



July 17, 2007

Michigan House of Representatives
Judiciary Committee

Dear Committee Members:

Re: House Bill 4611

I would like to start by thanking Chairman Condino and the Members of the Judiciary Committee for taking up this legislation. I would also like to thank Representative Jones and the co-sponsors of the legislation for their support of Michigan's law enforcement officers.

The Michigan Fraternal Order of Police wholeheartedly supports this legislation. House Bill 4611, "The Michigan Law Enforcement Officer's Firearm Carry Act," outlines the provisions by which a retired law enforcement officer can qualify to carry a concealed weapon under the federal "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004".

As members of the law enforcement community, we applaud your actions that add another layer of protection for Michigan's citizens. This legislation allows retired officers, trained to handle serious life threatening situations, to defend themselves and others against armed and dangerous criminals. Given the drastic reduction in the number of law enforcement officers since 2001, and the serious threats posed by external and internal enemies of this Country, your support of this legislation will benefit us all.

This legislation gives law enforcement a very useful tool that provides safety to our citizens while maintaining the integrity of Michigan's concealed weapons laws.

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

John Buczek, Executive Director
Michigan Fraternal Order of Police